



# Soil and Water Resources

*Missouri Department of Natural Resources*



**Check your calendars for May 4, and see if you're available to lend a hand at the ninth annual Missouri Envirothon near Jefferson City. For more information, contact Judy Stinson at the program office.**

## Update Soil and Water Districts Commission

At the January commission meeting Elizabeth Brown was elected to continue to serve as chair, and John Aylward was elected vice-chair.

### Inside this Issue:

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| National Awards                                       | 2     |
| AgNPS SALT: Tips to Avoid Management Strategy         | 3     |
| Employee Happenings                                   | 4 - 5 |
| Five Districts Recognized for Outstanding Performance | 6     |
| Introduction to Soils and Soil Survey Training        |       |
| Memos at a Glance                                     | 7     |

## Funds Available for New and Innovative Information and Education Programs

*by Jim Plassmeyer and Judy Stinson*

**D**o you want to start an information and education program or add something new to your existing one, but the district doesn't have the means to fund it? Here's your opportunity to get money to help with information and education projects!

The Soil and Water Districts Commission issued another call for Fiscal Year 2007 information and education project proposals. Proposals are being requested from districts interested in applying for these competitive grants. Districts are allowed to request salaries in the FY 2007 proposals.

As a reminder, the amount of the funds available for salaries is limited to 30 percent of the total commission budget of the information and education program. If the district is requesting funding for salaries, the funding has to be used to hire someone new or to add more hours to a part-time person to work on information and education programs. The proposals need to indicate how the funding will be used. The salary funding cannot be used to supplement other funding already being used for salaries.

We are requesting districts submit **eight copies** of their proposal to the program office. As with past requests, the proposals for FY 2007 will be reviewed by a committee and its recommendation will be forwarded to the commission for approval. Make sure to include a detailed itemized budget so the committee can tell what you want to purchase, which helps the committee better understand what is being proposed. A list of additional guidelines on what must be included in the proposal can be found in Memorandum 2006-024.

Proposals must be postmarked by **April 7, 2006**. The committee's recommendations will be presented to the commission at their May meeting. The districts will be notified before July 1, 2006, whether the proposal was approved. The districts will then have the full fiscal year to work on their information and education projects.

If you have an idea for a new and innovative information and education program now is your opportunity to get money to help fund it.

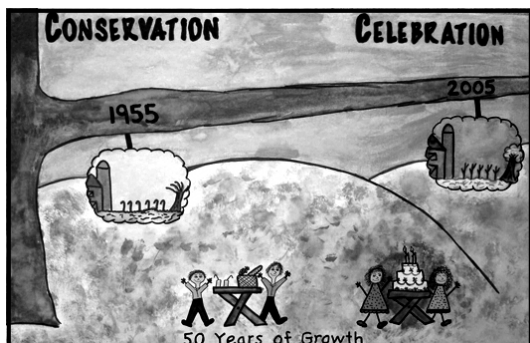
If you want additional information or have any questions, please contact your district coordinator or Jim Plassmeyer at the program office at 573-751-4932.

### Remember:

- The district needs to include, under the project information, how the project will meet the commission's goals as outlined in the 2005 *Plan for the Future*.
- LCD projectors are limited to \$2,500.
- A local representative from NRCS, MDC and Extension must sign the proposal.
- The proposal can be for up to three years in length.

**Proposals must be postmarked by April 7, 2006.**

## National Poster Contest Winner



Ben Bachler's national award winning poster depicted "50 years of Growth" in soil conservation. The Missouri poster contest winner took second place in the second and third grade category of the annual 2005 National Conservation Poster Contest.



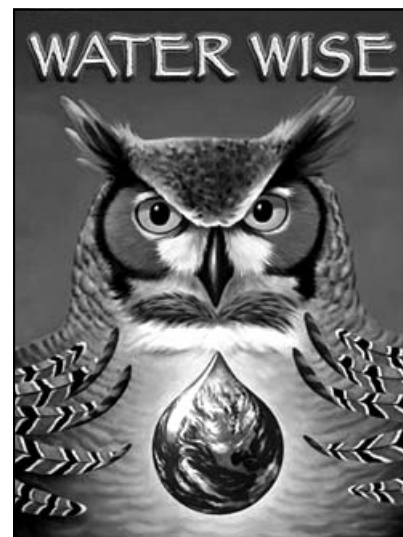
Ben Bachler

The theme was *Celebrate Conservation*. Bachler, son of April and Sam Bachler, is a third grader at St. George Elementary School in Osage County.

The poster contest is used by soil and water conservation districts as a tool to educate students about soil and water conservation.

View the 2005 National Conservation Poster Contest winners at <http://2006.nacdnet.org/awards/posters>.

**The theme for the 2006 poster contest is *Water Wise*.**



NACD Graphic

**For more information visit:  
[www.nacdnet.org/outreach/awards/poster.htm](http://www.nacdnet.org/outreach/awards/poster.htm).**

## Missourians Recognized in National Photo Contest



**Jen Mellard**  
**"Conservation Redirected"**  
Conservation  
Honorable Mention  
Kansas City, MO



**Bonnie Pryor**  
**"Pretty in Pink"**  
Trees & Plants  
Honorable Mention  
Brumley, MO  
Miller County SWCD



**Adisynn Foster**  
**"Deep Purple"**  
Youth  
Honorable Mention  
Grain Valley, MO  
Jackson County SWCD

View Photo Contest Winners at <http://2006.nacdnet.org/awards/photos/>

## AgNPS SALT: Tips to Avoid Management Strategy

by Davin Althoff

The Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment Program funds watershed projects that focus on reducing nonpoint source pollution such as sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other chemicals. These projects are five to seven years in length. To ensure that a project stays on track and is successfully completed the district must submit semi-annual progress reports.

When a district is unable to reach its goals for a reporting period they are placed in management strategy. Management strategy allows the district to revisit their plan, and possibly adjust their goals, in order to have a successful project.

There are several things that a district can do from the very beginning to avoid management strategy.

- **Set Realistic Goals**

Setting realistic goals during the development phase of the AgNPS SALT project is critical. For example, a goal of 5,000 acres of Planned Grazing System (DSP-3), if the district has never cost-shared on a Planned Grazing System through the regular Cost-Share Program, may be considered an unrealistic goal.

- **Active and Motivated SALT Manager**

Project success stems from a manager that has a good relationship with the landowners in the watershed.

- **Focus on Higher Priority Goals**

Districts should place more focus on achieving the higher priority goals in the watershed versus the lower priority goals.

- **Proper Focus on Information and Education**

Successful projects will focus information and education on the higher priority areas of the AgNPS SALT project through proper workshops and field tours.

- **Utilize Partners**

An AgNPS SALT project will not succeed without their partners' financial support.

- **Active Steering Committee and Board Involvement**

Knowledge of the project and involvement from the steering committee and district board are critical

### Have you filled out your AgNPS SALT survey?

The Soil and Water Districts Commission would like to get your opinion on the AgNPS SALT selection process. Please fill out the AgNPS SALT survey even if your district does not currently have an active AgNPS SALT project.

The survey was provided with Memorandum 2006-026 sent to districts on February 23. Return the survey to the program office by **March 31**.

## Employee Happenings

### New Soil Scientist

Jennifer Pellett is looking forward to getting out in the field but says her biggest challenge will be keeping up in with the other soil scientists. The new soil scientist works out of the Southeast Regional Office in Poplar Bluff.

Pellett is currently working on her master's degree in geology and a minor in soils at Southeast Missouri State University and received a bachelor's degree in biology from Virginia Tech. Before becoming a soil scientist, she was a laboratory technician.

She says the only kids she and her husband have are the four-legged kind— cats, dogs, horses, cattle and more. “My main hobby includes equestrian activities, primarily trail riding and camping. However, the horses also have to be able to work any cattle that we currently have,” says Pellett.

*Welcome to the Soil and Water Conservation Program!*

### SALT Coordinator Excited About Return to SWCP

A familiar face has returned to the Soil and Water Conservation Program. After five years with the Water Protection Program working with nonpoint source grants, Colleen Meredith has now become an Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment coordinator. The former cost-share coordinator says she is looking forward to working with the districts again.

Meredith will be working with AgNPS SALT managers to help carry out the goals of the projects and coordinate with partners to maximize the amount of water quality and soil conservation work done in the watershed.

She lives on a few acres of land in Jefferson City with her husband and four kids. “There is a creek that runs directly behind our house and a larger creek that it runs into on the side of our property, which runs directly in to the Missouri River. I see the sediment, trash and storm water problems that impact the creek every day and see how important riparian vegetation is in protecting the streambank. It is a constant reminder to me how important work on water quality and soil conservation is,” says Meredith

Meredith received a bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Massachusetts and a master's degree in animal science from the University of Missouri. In her spare time she enjoys going to her kids' activities.

“I am looking forward to showing how doing watershed work can improve water quality for everyone in Missouri and downstream states,” says Meredith, adding that it is important for everyone to do their part to protect water quality and to implement practices that will improve the health of the stream.



*Colleen Meredith*

*Welcome Back Colleen!*

### Coordinators Now Environmental Specialists

The name of their positions may have changed, but don't worry, they will still continue to provide the same assistance to districts and continue working to further soil and water conservation efforts in Missouri. Former soil and water cost-share, district and AgNPS SALT coordinators are now officially environmental specialists.

## AgNPS SALT Coordinator Leaves

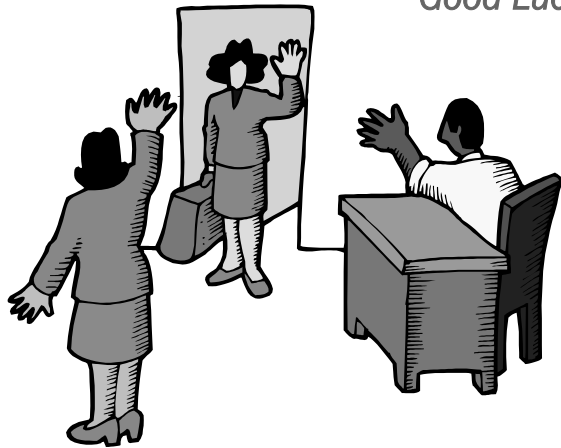
**G**ina Luebbering has accepted a job with the Missouri Department of Administration as a budget and planning analyst.

"I have really enjoyed working with all my districts," says Luebbering.

Supervisor Kenny Struempf says, "Gina has been instrumental in helping districts in the development of many successful AgNPS SALT projects and will be greatly missed by districts and program office staff."

Luebbering has worked for the program for four years. She says she will miss her co-workers and the little office pranks in the SALT Unit.

*Good Luck Gina!*



## Welcome SWCP Babies!



Kali Ann Redden

### Kali Ann Redden

District Coordinator Jeremy Redden and his wife welcomed Kali Ann into the world on January 13.

She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces.

## Farewell Brown

**A**fter 14 years with the Soil and Water Conservation Program, Jackie Brown is leaving.

Brown is an administrative office support assistant for the Planning and Fiscal Management Section. She used to be the voice at the other end of the line, answering the program office phone for many years. She continues to do so as a back-up.

"I am looking forward to spending time with my family, especially my six-week-old twin granddaughters, Hailee and Emilee," says Brown.

Supervisor Lori Bax says, "Jackie has been a valued employee with us for 14 years and we are sorry to see her leave."

"I will miss my co-workers. This program has been like a family to me," says Brown, adding that she has been through some rough times and that they were always there beside her, giving her support.

"No words can ever express the deep gratitude that I feel towards all of them," says Brown.

*Best Wishes Jackie!*

## Ava Sharon Bullard

Soil Scientist LeAnn Bullard and her husband had Ava Sharon on January 7.

She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces.



Ava Sharon Bullard

## **Five Districts Recognized for Outstanding Performance by Department of Natural Resources Director**

**F**ive of Missouri's soil and water conservation districts have been recognized by Department of Natural Resources Director Doyle Childers for their outstanding performance in addressing soil and water conservation issues in Fiscal Year 2005.

By working with landowners to install conservation practices and provide information and education programs, the districts have helped reduce erosion, keeping fields productive and improving water quality throughout Missouri.

### **Award Recipients**

#### **Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Director's Award for Outstanding Progress in Addressing Gully Erosion on Agricultural Land

#### **Oregon County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Director's Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Implementation of Best Management Practices on Grasslands

#### **St. Charles County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Director's Award for Outstanding Progress for Providing Information and Education Activities for  
Preventing Soil Erosion and Improving Water Quality

#### **Saline County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Director's Award for Outstanding Progress in Addressing Sheet and Rill Erosion on Agricultural Land

#### **Webster County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Director's Award for Outstanding Progress of an Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment Project

## **Don't Miss Introduction to Soils and Soil Survey Training!**

*by Wyn Kelley*

**T**his course is designed for those with little to no soils background. If you are interested in how soils information is used to support our conservation programs, how soil surveys are made, how to use soil survey information, or just interested in learning more about soils, then this training is for you!

**May 2-4:** Lincoln University Carver Farm, Jefferson City

Contact Keith Davis, NRCS Area Resource Soil Scientist, at keith.davis@mo.usda.gov

**May 16-18:** Plant Materials Center, Elsberry

Contact Gary Noel, NRCS Area Resource Soil Scientist, at gary.noel@mo.usda.gov

**July 25-27:** Litton Center, Chillicothe

Contact Dave Kacirek, NRCS Area Resource Soil Scientist, at david.kacirek@mo.usda.gov

**Attention: *Soil and Water Resources* is now online.**

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/publicat.htm>

To receive an electronic version, please send your name and  
e-mail address to [Lindsay.Tempinson@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:Lindsay.Tempinson@dnr.mo.gov).

## Memos at a Glance

### 2006-016 - Request for Quarterly District Cost-share (DCS) Reports and Reconciliation of District Cost-share Claims

- Reminds districts to send **both** the cost-share Ledger Summary Report and the Fund Status Report for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2006.

### 2006-017 - District Assistance Section

- Informs districts of changes to district coordinator assignments and provides an updated map.

### 2006-018 - 2006 County Average Cost List

- Explains the process for developing county average costs for next fiscal year.

### 2006-019 - Soil and Water Districts Commission Policy Regarding Topsoiling Terraces

- Explains the commission's revised policy regarding the use of cost-share funds for topsoiling terraces.

### 2006-020 - Fiscal Year 2005 Cost-Share Evaluation

- Provides a packet of cost-share practice evaluation data, including information about cost-share provided to landowners for conservation practices in districts during Fiscal Year 2005.

### 2006-021 - Upcoming Nutrient Management Training

- Informs districts with current AgNPS SALT projects about a nutrient management training session scheduled for February 27-28.

### 2006-022- N312 Waste Management System Clarification

- Informs districts with current AgNPS SALT projects about clarifications regarding the Waste Management System practice, N312.

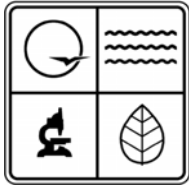
### 2006-023 - Missouri Resources Article

- Provides a copy of the winter 2006 issue of *Missouri Resources* magazine, which includes an article, "Heated Competition," about the Canon Envirothon that Missouri hosted this past summer.

### 2006-024 - FY 2007 Information and Education Grant

- Explains the call for Fiscal Year 2007 Information and Education Grant requests.

If you have any questions about a memo listed above, please contact the program office.



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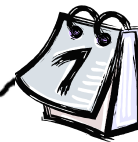
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## Mark Your Calendar



### April

- **April 20-21: FFA Convention, Columbia**
- **April 21: Earth Day, Jefferson City**
- **April 30-May 7: Soil and Water Stewardship Week**

### May

- **May 2-4: Introduction to Soils and Soil Survey Training, Jefferson City**
- **May 4: Missouri Envirothon, Jefferson City**
- **May 8-11 & 15-18: Soil and Water Conservation District Area Meetings**
- **May 15-17: Introduction to Soils and Soil Survey Training, Elsberry**
- **May 23: Soil and Water Districts Commission Meeting (Tentative)**